

JOINT MEETING OF WARRANT COMMITTEE AND CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEES
6:30 p.m., Room 112, Belmont High School
April 28, 2008

Attendees: Warrant Committee members: Chair Phil Curtis, Michael Widmer, Robie White, Liz Allison, William Lynch, Roy Epstein, James Heigham, John Bowe, Bill Hofmann, Peg Callanan, Ralph Jones, Mark Paolillo, Linda Oates, Walter McLaughlin and Angelo Firenze.
Capital Budget Committee members: Chair Patricia Brusch, Anne Marie Mahoney, Jenny Fallon, Mark Clark, Diane Stafford

Absent: Warrant Committee - none
Capital Budget Committee-Jack Conti

Other attendees: Barbara Hagg, Floyd Carman, Glenn Clancy, Sami Baghdady, and Don Becker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by WC Chair Curtis & CBC Chair Brusch.

Article 10 amendment

The first item for discussion was an amendment submitted by Rosemary Burke last Friday 4/25/08 for Article 10. The amendment states that no more than one percent of the money spent on Pavement Management is to be spent on Police Details. Right now according to Glenn Clancy the Community Development Director/Town Engineer the town spends 7-9% for this cost. He also contacted Mass Highway who stated that they spend approximately 8% on this cost. So the current percentage paid is not out of line with what the state is paying.

The question of whether police officers on road work instead of flagmen is a matter of state law. Michael Widmer stated that here is no state law requiring police details. There is also no state law banning the use of flagmen. Chair Curtis added that he felt that this could be considered a union labor issue. Glenn Clancy stated that this is an issue of public safety: pedestrians, traffic and contractors. Before each job he meets with the Police department to determine what the police feel is a safe level of police presence on each project.

Motion by Member Heigham against the amendment(s) to Article 10. Passed unanimously.

At this point the CBC considered the same vote against the amendment. This passed unanimously. Members Fallon, Clark & Mahoney felt however that Mass General law should be modified to allow at least some flagmen on road jobs.

Amendment to Article 20

This amendment to Article 20 was submitted on 4/28/08 by Sami Baghdady. Because of Town Moderator rules, there must be three business days after an amendment is submitted in order for it to be considered at a Town Meeting. Because of the late submission it cannot be discussed until next Monday at TM if there is a TM on that evening.

Sami Baghdady as the proponent of the amendment stated that the changes to the article are as follows: 1) prior to the parking lot sale, the site plan would have to be submitted with all special permits and appeals time finished & permits issues. At that time the parking lot could be sold and Horne Road could be discontinued. Then the RFP would be issued, and the purchase & sale agreement would be subject to the Planning Board approval. Member Widmer reported from the concurrent BOS meeting that Chair Firenze would like broad support from both the CBC & WC subject to the neighborhood meeting tomorrow evening (Tuesday 4/29/08). If there were no broad approval Chair Firenze would move to dismiss. The BOS will vote on this next Monday. If there was a vote to dismiss, the article would be put off until the October STM and have the Planning Board hold meetings with the neighbors. This still leaves open uncertainty if the developer changes his mind. CBC Member Fallon stated that any informational discussion must

be controlled and circumspect with no promises given. WC Member Hofmann stated that it is his understanding that the local merchants paid for the parking lot land. Chair Firenze (who was now in attendance) stated that no record of this was found and that no restrictions on that deed were found.

WC Chair Curtis stated that this amendment is an improvement over the existing article and suggests deferring vote until after neighborhood association meets.

Don Becker representing the neighborhood stated that he want to wait for neighborhood meeting so that a consensus can be reached. Sami Baghdady will be making a presentation to that group tomorrow evening.

Because the CBC will not have a quorum next Monday, votes from this group were taken. Member Clark stated that this is a vast improvement and meets his objection. The Committee decided to separate the vote on the two amendments. Horne Road amendment - 4 yes, one no (Mahoney). Parking Lot amendment - 3 yes, two no (Mahoney & Brusch).

Member Clark before adjournment stated that it would be best to withdraw both amendments to Article 20 until the fall STM.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.